

Claims

1) A computer based peer-to-peer content delivery system, comprising of a transaction server: i. a persistent data store containing a database storing user and transaction information ii. a data communications interface and iii. a controller operatively connected to the persistent data store and the data communications interface; and b. software executing in the transaction server, the software capable of: i. client registration and logon authentication; ii. tracking transactions between purchasing clients and distribution clients. iii. tracking initial content transfers to and from the distribution server; iv. initiate distribution lotteries between clients. A distribution server comprising: i. a persistent data store, the persistent data store containing a plurality of individually selectable data files, some of the data files being pre-loaded onto the persistent data store; ii. a data communications interface operatively connected to a data communications network to effect a peer-to-peer network; and iii. a controller operatively connected to the persistent data store and the data communications interface; and b. software executing in the distribution server, the software capable of: i. identifying validated clients allowed to download content based on transactions authorized by the transaction server; ii. allowing distribution of the data files when authorized by the publishers identified other workstations after receiving authorization from the transaction server; iii. securing the data files from unauthorized access; and iv. allowing publishers of the stored data files to manipulate the content

2) A content delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the transaction server and distribution server service are; a. combined in one computing device to service a small client base; b. replaced a cluster of computing devices to service a large user base..

3) A content delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein client computer(s) running software are used to connect to the content delivery system via a network interface.

4) The system of claim 1 wherein the data files comprise works subject to copyright and workings not subject to copyright.

5) A content delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said plurality of data files includes audio files, spoken audio files, visual image files, text files, video files, multimedia files, operating code files or configuration information files.

6) A method of distributing data files for the content delivery system of claim 1 comprising: a. pre-loading a plurality of data files onto the persistent data store of the distribution server; b. initializing access of the system to a peer-to-peer network.

7) The method of claim 6 further comprising wherein content is not allowed to be uploaded or transfer into the network by anyone other than the content publisher or instrument of the content publisher authorized to make material available for public sale.

8) The method of claim 6 further comprising wherein content is distributed to clients from the distribution server or from another peer after the transaction server has validated the purchase of said content.

9) The method of claim 8 further comprising wherein the content is authenticated and digitally verified for authenticity by the transaction server prior to initiating the content transfer from one peer to another.

10) The method of claim 8 further comprising wherein content is initially distributed from the distribution server to a single client then redistributed to other clients in a peer-to-peer fashion.

11) A method of claim 10 further comprising the content distribution process is determined by distribution drawing conducted by the transaction server using accumulated points submitted into a random drawing as the basis for determining the host client participating in the content distribution transaction.

12) The method of claim 10 further comprising wherein point(s) are awarded to clients when they purchase or distribute content to other peers within the content delivery system.

13) A points redemption process within the content delivery system claimed in claim 1 wherein points accumulated by the client in the process referenced in Claim 12 can readily be converted to goods, cash or services at any time by the administrative body of the content delivery system.